

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Legislative Committee

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

Meeting Date

**October 24, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Dean Gates - Chair
Heidi Haas
Steve Lesko
Ric Nelson
Christine King
Akis Gialopsos for Rep. Millett
Lexi Henning
Alex Gimarc

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Rich Sanders
Hannah Foreman

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Announcements and Good News

Legislative Committee members wished Lexi Henning a happy birthday.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Approval of the Agenda

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Rich Sanders stated that there is no correspondence to report.

REPORTS

Report from the Chair

Dean Gates did not have anything to report for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative Base Funding

Teresa Holt stated that it is in the hands of the Legislative Committee to develop the position paper with the new data. She felt it would be useful to convene a work group with Patrick Reinhart and Hannah Foreman to go through the CBC report and pull out the data for a position paper.

Advocate for Employment First Legislation

Rich Sanders stated that the Council met with Akis Gialopsos to talk about the final pieces that were needed for the legislation, one of them being a reporting entity to the legislature and the Governor. Some suggestions for a reporting entity are the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee, the Council, or others, and Rich is investigating with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation the possibilities.

Rich stated that another piece is identifying the state agencies that could be impacted by the legislation. He put together a list of impacted agencies that include:

- SDS
- DVR
- Division of Public Assistance (and any other agency with an employment program)
- Division of Behavioral Health
- Department of Education and Early Development
- Division of Personnel and Labor Relations.

Rich Sanders stated that another issue is the data collection methods for each one of those agencies, and this would need to be addressed to ensure the legislation is meeting the goals.

Ric Nelson shared some concerns about making sure the Council is addressing the concerns of individuals and families in this push for employment. Discussion ensued about the amount of education that will need to be done for the various people impacted by this legislation. Akis Gialopsos explained that there will need to be consistent messaging that goes out to everyone, and it needs to be framed in such a way that it is an understandable message for whatever audience is receiving it.

In a response to a question about the outcomes of the legislation, Akis Gialopsos stated that one outcome is that more people will be able to go to work and be gainfully employed. A second outcome related to this is that there will be a reporting mechanism and a clearinghouse of information that will give a more accurate picture of people with disabilities within the state

to determine the cost of services and to also determine whether or not the proper resources are available to people to receive the education and training needed.

The members of the Legislative Committee drilled further down into some of the details of the implementation of the bill, and Teresa Holt reminded everyone that they need to focus on the overall systems change of the bill, which is about people considering the option of going to work. The committee needs to focus on the creation of a position paper for the legislation.

Akis Gialopsos informed the committee that the bill itself is very complex, and if there are any questions, he will be happy to navigate them through the bill.

Christine King stated that in addition to the formalized position paper, they need to consider social media and posters to get the message out to the general public. Ric Nelson stated that Peer Power can assist with that type of campaign. The committee further discussed using the Council's Facebook page as a vehicle to get the Employment First message out, and it was determined that there needed to be a safeguard to ensure the messaging is consistent.

Advocate for State/Federal Regulations Regarding Restraint and Seclusion in Schools

Teresa Holt stated that the final draft is nearly completed, and the Council has had discussions with the commissioners from Department of Health and Social Services and Department of Education and Early Development. She noted that Christie Reinhardt will be presenting the draft to the State Board of Education on Monday.

Akis Gialopsos stated that there was a minor change requested by Christie Reinhardt, and the legal drafter should have that change completed in time for her to present to the State Board of Education.

In response to a question by Alex Gimarc, Teresa Holt stated that the federal legislation has stalled, and it would be a good research project for

Hannah Foreman to determine why it stalled. Akis Gialopsos also informed the committee that this draft legislation from Representative Millett only addresses the state of Alaska. The role of the Council in terms of the federal legislation is one of pure advocacy. Nothing that occurs at the federal level will impact the legislative process with respect to this bill during this upcoming legislative session.

Advocate for a State Match for Public and Community Transportation

Dean Gates stated that the Council's position is currently to support the Alaska Mobility Coalition on their efforts.

Advocate for Alternative Routes for Students with Disabilities to Pass the HSGQE and/or Receive a Diploma

Teresa Holt reported that she believes this will be on the State Board of Education's agenda at their December meeting. The Council is on hold with this goal until they see what the Board of Education wants to do.

Alex Gimarc commented that this goal could also be tied to other vocational education, non-college track students. Rich Sanders stated that under the Integrated Employment Initiative, Kristin Vandagriff has been researching this and found one state with five different tracks. As the Council does further research and gets more information, they will inform the committee.

Provide Comment to the Anchorage Assembly on Accessible Taxi Ordinance

Dean Gates declared a conflict of interest regarding the Anchorage Assembly taxi ordinance and excused himself from this discussion.

Ric Nelson reported that he was not able to attend the last Assembly meeting where public comment on the taxicab ordinance was to be heard.

Christine King stated that she attended the meeting as a representative from the ADA Advisory Commission on behalf of two individuals, one who had been assaulted by a taxicab driver, and another who wanted to testify about her experiences with taxi drivers and service animals. Unfortunately

the Assembly meeting focused on the labor ordinance and other issues, and Dick Traini moved the public testimony for the taxicab ordinance until later in the evening. She stated that by 9:30 p.m., they needed to leave and were unable to wait for testimony to open. She stated that they will reopen the testimony at the November 5th Anchorage Assembly meeting.

Alex Gimarc suggested working with other Assembly members who may be more responsive to this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to address.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Trust Advocacy Summit – December 11 – 12, Anchorage.

Ric Nelson stated that the Trust would like to hear from some new advocates, and Hannah Foreman suggested the new Council employee, Ian. Anyone who is interested in participating in the summit should contact Patrick Reinhart.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for December 5th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Steve Lesko stated that SDS has implemented a new MMIS billing system, and the results have been poor. Unless there is some resolution soon, the pre-payments that providers have received will dry up, and they will not be able to recoup future billings. It will be a nightmare for the agencies to reconcile the longer this system failure goes on. He noted that his staff is working double time trying to keep track of everything manually, and there is no communication as to whether or not remittances were accepted or not accepted by the system. He commented that it would have been nice to

have a back-up system, some contingency plans in case of emergency, and involve the people affected by the system.

Christine King stated that another reason she was at the Assembly meeting was the ADA Advisory Commission was given the Assembly resolution for October being Disability Awareness Month.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no opposition, Dean Gates adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.